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## *The Silencebringers*

David Sparenberg

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## Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Albuquerque, New Mexico • Postponed to: July 30 – August 2, 2021



### Abstract

The man who loves the earth whose love is genuine

### Additional Keywords

Poetry; The Silencebringers; David Sparenberg

"The Magus" was an intriguing idea, but it sped on through scene after scene without giving the characters enough to motivate them. Motivation is a sticking point with me. I always ask "why is he/she doing this or feeling this?" and too many times I couldn't find the answer when I read Mel Waldman's story. Why did Jo confront Eddie in the first place? Their relationship started as a one-night stand, but his frenzied searching for her is more reminiscent of a long-established love. Then, later in the Sphinx's dressing room, he sees Yolanda, Jocasta's sister, and declares immediately that he loves her even more than the woman he was so frantically searching for. Love is not like instant coffee, it needs time to brew.

With some work, I think that "The Magus" could be an enjoyable story. Mr. Waldman's style is clear and crisp, and his basic idea is a good one. He only needs to get intimate with his characters and properly motivate them.

The poetry in issue #10 was extensive and much of it was very good. I was most impressed with "Sea Spiders" by Sue Nevill, the retelling of some favorite fairy tales by Jill Solnicki and "The Vernal Queen" by Colleen Anderson. Special mention must be made of Owen R. Neill's "Lohengrin," an enjoyable poem that broke the stranglehold which free verse had on "The Mythic Circle."

The illustrations were up to the usual excellent standard, with the one on page 3 for "Merlusine" the most telling of all.

Before signing off, I'd like to make a suggestion. The writers for "The Mythic Circle" are so close to professional that they can practically taste it (a quality level somewhere between classical novels and television) and no two of them share the same deficiencies, so why not set up some collaborations? Perhaps devote a whole issue to collaborations. I'd like to try working with a partner. Enduring artistic differences and a few arguments might be worth it, if it meant accelerating to a professional level. If anyone is interested in burdening him/herself with me as a partner, please contact me through "The Mythic Circle." Thank you.

Charles R. Schabel  
Knightdale, North Carolina

*Intriguing! We'll be happy to forward enquiries to Charles, and to facilitate similar matchups if others are interested. As to "The Magus," I didn't have a problem with lack of motivation; for me the story, and the underlying Oedipal tale, abide at the intersection between malign Fate and the reasonless passion of love-at-first-sight. Readers? Incidentally, those mixed metaphors can infest even the best-intentioned writing; I don't believe atomic reactors gallop away, though the image is fun.--TC*

## THE SILENCEBRINGERS

by David Sparenberg

*The man who loves the earth  
whose love is genuine  
who faces the old ways  
a fountain of wisdom  
whose heart is magnanimous  
whose mind is alert*

*a single man standing  
a mountain of character  
a landscape of legend  
who chants to the tall trees  
and wandering stars--*

*This man says nothing  
He is not a part of  
the ways of the cities  
The blood in his veins  
has an earlier source*

*He strolls in the quiet  
Olympic Mountains  
He walks through the gentle  
Willamette Valley*

*The cruel taint of exile  
has smeared a harsh color  
over his features  
But tears of the dark times  
he lifts into splendor  
The words of the wayward  
his heartsong transforms*

*What is said of this man  
the man who says nothing  
can be said of the woman  
who shares the same purpose:*

*Their silence is fuller  
Than the modern world's noise*